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CLARE RURAL DISTRICT

in the

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF WEST SUFFOLK

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1943.

To the Chairman and Members
of the
Clare Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I present for your consideration my Annual Report
for the year 1943.

The Report is abbreviated, but the necessary records
and statistics have been preserved in order that, after
the termination of the present emergency, a fuller Report
containing statistics for each year may be available.

The general health of the population has continued
to be good.

ARTHUR MORGAN,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

General Statistics and Social
Conditions.

Area:- 49, 360 acres.

Number of Parishes.- 24 .

Rateable Value:- £31,927.

Sum represented by a penny rate:- £137. 5.3.

Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books:- 3,055.

The district is entirely agricultural in character and there are no trades or occupations other than those associated with agricultural pursuits.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

<u>Live Births:-</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	131	57	74
Illegitimate.	14	8	6
Totals	145	65	80
Birth Rate per thousand estimated population	----	17.5	
Birth Rate per thousand population (England & Wales)	----	16.5	
<u>Still Births.-</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	6	4	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Rate per thousand total (live & still births)		----	39.7
<u>Deaths:-</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
	120	68	52
Death Rate per thousand estimated population		----	14.5
Death Rate per thousand population(England & Wales)		----	12.1
Deaths from puerperal causes :-			
(a) Puerperal sepsis	----	1	
(b) Other puerperal causes	----	Nil	
Rate per thousand total (live & still births)	-----	6.6	
Number of deaths of infants under one year of age:-			
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	5	4	1
Illegitimate	1	1	-
Death Rate of infants under one year of age:-			
All infants per thousand live births	-----	41.4	
Legitimate infants per thousand legitimate live births	-----	38.2	
Illegitimate infants per thousand illegitimate live births	----	71.4	

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	-----	19
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	-----	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	-----	Nil
Deaths from Influenza (all ages)	-----	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	-----	2

Birth & Death Rates for the last five years:-

	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.
Birth Rate	13.5	13.8	13.7	14.4	15.8
Death Rate	13.0	15.4	16.8	13.5	15.6

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

There is no alteration in the general arrangements.

Public Health Officers of the Authority:-

- (a) A Whole time Medical Officer of Health who also acts for other Authorities.
- (b) A whole time Sanitary Inspector. The appointment is held by Mr.B. Stock C.R.S.I. of Clare. Mr. Stock was appointed on the 1st of January,1920.

Hospitals:-

There are no hospitals in the district. The majority of patients requiring hospital treatment go to Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge, or to the West Suffolk General Hospital at Bury St. Edmunds. The Newmarket Rural District Council, Cambs, have an isolation hospital near the town of Newmarket and cases of infectious disease are accepted there at a charge of £2. 12.6. weekly plus the cost of removal by motor ambulance. There is no fixed arrangement between the two Authorities but no difficulties have been experienced.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water supply:-

During the year fifteen samples of water were sent for analysis. With one exception. (a private well at Great Wratting) all were reported to be fit for drinking purposes.

There are three waterworks owned by the Council which provide a constant piped supply to the villages of Clare, Hundon, and Withersfield.

Eleven cottages at Withersfield, and a few at Little Wratting, have a piped supply from waterworks situated in the adjoining Urban District of Haverhill. The parish of Stoke by Clare has a partial supply from privately owned waterworks. These supplies have been adequately maintained and no curtailment has been necessary.

All the other parishes depend upon wells and, apart from the inconvenience of having to carry water in buckets, there have, from time to time, been difficulties due to the failure of some of these sources of supply during dry seasons. In March 1944 it became necessary to cart water from one of the waterworks to certain villages, and 50 500 gallon tanks have now been placed at appropriate points.

A scheme to provide a piped supply to every village has been prepared by a firm of consulting Engineers.

Drainage and Sewerage:- There is nothing new to report under this heading. There are certain parishes, particularly Clare, where schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal are necessary. In view of the extensions of piped water supplies contemplated by the Council the general situation in regard to sewerage will no doubt receive attention in the near future.

Public Cleansing:- Fortnightly collections of rubbish are made at Clare, every two months at Cavendish, and monthly at Hundon. The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping. A proper system of scavenging covering the whole area is much needed.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area:-

Number of inspections	1826
Complaints	23
Infectious diseases	21
Scabies	70
Schools	9
Water supplies	216
Dwelling houses	300
New buildings	7
Damage due to enemy action and War damage	94
Drainage and refuse dumps	83
Cowsheds and dairies	74
Bakehouses	31

Fried fish premises	8
Slaughterhouses	None in use
Knackers' yards	12
Factories	59
General inspections	245
Re-inspections	316
Petroleum Acts	14
Explosives Acts	9
Shops Act	71
Evacuation etc.	164

Notices served:-

Informal written ---- 142 complied with ---- 124
Statutory ----- None

Shops Acts:- No action has been called for. There are 71 shops in the district.

Swimming baths and pools:- None

Eradication of bed bugs:- One house has been disinfested.

Schools:- On request Clare School was disinfected by means of the formalin spray. Otherwise there are no fresh matters to report.

Housing:- No new houses have been built either by the Council or by private enterprise. Two plans were submitted under the Building Byelaws, both dealt with additions to existing premises. Repairs have been carried out to 14 houses, and one cottage, considered to be unrepairable and unfit for habitation, has been demolished. On account of the difficulty of obtaining materials, and the shortage of labour, the question of repairing houses is presenting a problem which is not easy to deal with. Generally only urgent and essential repair work to keep houses wind and weatherproof has been done. It can be visualised that under these conditions, which have existed for a period of years, many of the old cottages are approaching a condition in which they will be uninhabitable unless re-conditioned or extensively repaired. The problem is one that will call for urgent attention at the earliest possible moment. A survey of the housing conditions throughout the area is one of the things that should be done when circumstances permit in order to ascertain the number of houses requiring repair or re-conditioning and the number considered to be beyond repair and uninhabitable. If such a survey is to be done quickly additional staff will be required.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Number of cowkeepers and purveyors of milk on the Register:-

Retail purveyors and producers	-----	37
Wholesale purveyors and producers	-----	14
Wholesale and retail purveyors	-----	7
Butter only	-----	7.

Two new registrations were granted during the year and three retail purveyors and producers have given up business.

Meat and other foods:-

There are ten licensed slaughterhouses in the district but they are used only for occasional private slaughtering. Meat is distributed to the various butchers from a slaughterhouse situated outside the area. Certificates have been given for the condemnation of a number of tins of canned meat, fish, beans, peas, condensed milk, fruit etc: In most instances the tins appeared to have been damaged in transit. All cases were reported to the Food Salvage Officer.

Bakehouses:- The number remains the same, viz., 14. There are no fresh circumstances to report.

Fried Fish Shops:-

There is one shop situated at Clare. The trade is carried on under suitable conditions and no complaints have been received concerning any nuisance caused thereby.

Prevalence and Control over Infectious
and other Diseases.

Fewer notifications have been received than in 1942 the total being 86 as against 116. The diminution is due to a decrease in the number of cases of measles and scarlet fever. On the other hand there has been a slight increase in the number of cases of whooping cough. One case of diphtheria occurred in an unimmunised person.

Diphtheria immunisation:- The arrangements are as set out in my report for 1942 and there are no fresh circumstances to comment upon. At the end of 1943 it was estimated that 75% of children under 5 years of age and 90% of children between the ages of 5 and 15 had been fully protected.

Diphtheria antitoxin:- Antitoxin is always supplied free of charge to Medical Practitioners.

So far as the non-notifiable infectious diseases are concerned there is nothing of particular interest to record.

Bacteriological examinations:- These are carried out by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

Scabies:- Cases of Scabies are treated at the cleansing centre situated in the adjoining Urban District of Haverhill. Benzyl benzoate is used and the treatment appears to be quite effective. Eighty-eight cases were dealt with.

Analysis of Notifiable Diseases
under Age Groups.

Disease	Total cases notified	At ages-year											Admitted Hospital	Deaths
		1-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-		
Measles	42		3	3	2	5	12	13	1	1	1	1	-	-
Whooping cough	27	2	2	2	2	7	10	2					-	-
Scarlet Fever	6						4	1	1				2	-
Diphtheria	1									1			1	-
Erysipelas	2											2	-	-
Pneumonia	6								2	1		1	2	3
Puerperal pyrexia	2									2			-	-
Totals	86	2	5	5	4	12	26	16	4	5	1	4	2	3

Analysis of Notifiable Diseases under Age Groups.

Disease	Total cases notified	At ages--Year											Admitted Hospital	Deaths
		1-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-	
Measles	42		3	3	2	5	12	13	1	1	1	1	-	-
Whooping cough	27	2	2	2	2	7	10	2					-	-
Scarlet Fever	6						4	1	1				2	-
Diphtheria	1									1			1	-
Erysipelas	2											2	-	-
Pneumonia	6								2	1		1	2	3
Enterperal pyrexia	2									2			-	-
Totals	86	2	5	5	4	12	26	16	4	5	1	4	2	3

Tuberculosis.

New cases and Mortality during 1943

Age periods	New cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1			1					
5								
15			1	1				
25	1					1		
35	1				1			
45	1				1			
55								
65 & over.		1						
Totals	3	1	2	1	2	1	-	-

Non-notified tuberculosis deaths ---- Nil.

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulation, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Arthur Morgan, M.A., M.R.C.S.,
D.P.H.

